



# Fellowship of First Fleeters

## Hunter Valley Chapter

"To live on in the hearts and minds of Descendants is never to die."

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## The Coal River Bulletin

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The AGM on the 12<sup>th</sup> August was combined with our annual Soup and Damper Luncheon and again was a most enjoyable meeting. Many thanks to those who provided the delicious soup and damper – and the tasty sweets topped off a great meal.

### Congratulations to our committee for 2013/14:

President: Barbara Turner  
Secretary: Ray Green  
Treasurer: Helen Pacey  
Librarian: Don Huggup  
Web Master: Phil Aubin  
Kitchen Roster: Pat Smith

Vice President/Membership Officer: Cynthia Huggup  
Minutes Secretary: Jeanette Green  
Publicity: Phil Alexander  
Programme/Outings: Yvonne Bradley  
Newsletter Editor: Judy Aubin  
Equipment and Maintenance Officer: John Turner



(Absent: Don & Cynthia Huggup)

Following the meeting Phil Aubin played a DVD: 'Search for the Sirius' – a documentary on the sad fate of the *Sirius*, flagship of the First Fleet, which was wrecked on a Norfolk Island reef in 1790. The documentary shows attempts to find and recover some of the wreckage of the *Sirius* leading up to and during the Bi-centenary in 1988.



Phil also had on display a collection of 20 separate issues of stamps and First Day Covers, issued by the GPO, during 1987-1988 to commemorate the Bicentenary.

Delma Burns talked briefly about the Australia Day Luncheon in Sydney each January and encouraged members to consider attending as it is a most enjoyable and interesting event as well as being an opportunity to meet other First Fleeters and friends.

# Your Invitation to our Next Meeting

You are cordially invited to our first Saturday afternoon meeting.

WHEN: Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> October

WHERE: Our usual venue - Senior Citizens Centre  
Brunker Rd. Adamstown

TIME: 2.00 pm

Our first Saturday meeting is being held for those who aren't able to join us at our usual Monday gatherings. It is an opportunity to come along and meet others who have First Fleet ancestors as well as those like minded folk who are interested in Australian History.

## GUEST SPEAKER:

This afternoon the Guest Speaker will be our member, Lorraine Valent, who will introduce us to her two First Fleet ancestors:

Ann Smith - who arrived on the *Charlotte and*  
Patrick Burn - who arrived on the *Friendship*.

*Afternoon tea will be served.*  
*Cost: \$5 pp*

## A LITTLE LEVITY

*\*\* If you love something, set it free. If it comes back, it will always be yours.  
If it doesn't come back, it was never yours to begin with.*

*But, if it just sits in your living room, messes up your stuff, eats your food,  
uses your telephone, takes your money, and doesn't appear to realize that  
you had set it free - You either married it or gave birth to it.*

*\*\* My mind not only wanders, it sometimes leaves completely.*

*\*\* If you hang something in your closet for a while it shrinks two sizes.*

*\*\* Just when I was getting used to yesterday, along came to-day.*



*Special Birthday wishes go to:*

**August:**

Robert Carter	Raquel Cameron
Lee de Bono	Valerie Davies
Robyn Gant	Brian Halson

**September:**

(Another popular month!)

Judy Aubin	Nancy Carter,
Garry Ballhouse	Malcolm Burns
Jan Davis	Norman Hannah,
Daphne Hughes	Trevor Jones
Andrew Pacey	Joy Pinkerton,



*Our heartfelt thanks*

to **Yvonne Bradley** who has been the Secretary of our Chapter for many years, a job she has done so well. However she felt it was time for a change. Recently Yvonne has enjoyed assisting in organising our bi-monthly outings and we are so pleased she will continue on the committee wearing a different hat – that of planning our programmes and activities.

*Once again Yvonne a big thank you from us all!!*

Our next outing

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2013**



**A Walking Tour of the ROCKS**

Train leaves Broadmeadow at 8.14am  
Arrive by train at Circular Quay about 11 am

Morning tea at a café in the arcade opposite in Alfred Street.

The guided walking tour with Liz Parkinson will begin along the foreshore and continue to the Discovery Museum for the free lunch-time history talk at noon.

Afterwards check out the Friday food market in Argyll Street and either buy lunch there or bring your own packed lunch.

Re-assemble and continue the tour, finishing at Jessie Street Gardens to see the First Fleet monument before returning to Circular Quay to head home.

Cost: \$10

Please pay beforehand either to the Treasurer or by B-Pay into our Chapter account.

Should be a great day out – fingers crossed the weather is kind as usual.



**Christmas Meeting - Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

This year as we celebrate the festive season we thought to remember our First Fleet ancestors and the Christmas they experienced on the voyage from Portsmouth. We know it would have been a simple celebration but far better than their 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas in NSW when they were all but starving.

A Spit roast has been organised (as simple as we could get – but not all that simple!) and will be held at our usual Adamstown venue. Cost \$33 pp – 2 courses - BYO drinks.

**Our outing to Maitland on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013** was another example of the wonderful history to be found in our region. After a morning coffee our first stop of the day was St. Mary's Anglican Church. Maitland became an Anglican parish in 1838 and is one of the oldest in the Diocese of Newcastle.



The first St. Mary's was completed in 1843 and was designed only to be functional by architect James Hume. As the population of the area grew the foundation stone for a new building to seat 700 was laid in 1860. Locally quarried Ravensfield stone was used in the main body of the church and carved cedar for the pews, pulpits and altar.

As well as the historical interest and the beauty of the church a most enjoyable highlight was the lovely organ recital.

Across the road, in Church Street Maitland, Grossmann House is one of two mirror image Victorian Regency properties built in 1870-71, side by side on the same lot, for the prosperous business partners Isaac Beckett and Samuel Owen.



Married servant quarters at rear

Grossmann House (right) Isaac Beckett's home & Brough House, Samuel Owen's home

In 1890 the houses became part of Maitland Girls High School. They are now now part of the National Trust and Grossman House has been painstakingly restored to the original Beckett era and furnished accordingly with most pieces sourced from the Hunter region.

The National Trust holds an extensive collection of 19th century costumes and textiles at Grossmann House, linked to lifestyles and industry in the region. Examples from the collection are on display.



The wine brocade afternoon gown in the Costume and Textile Display Room shows the increasingly elaborate design and construction of clothes worn by upper middle class women from the mid 1870s. This was made possible by new technology such as the sewing machine, and the mass production of textiles.

Also on display is a collection of significant 19<sup>th</sup> century sewing machines, including an impressive cabinet-style machine of 1817 by Wheeler & Wilson (American Co.)



Friends of Grossmann House served us a tasty lunch which enabled us to chat amongst ourselves and to ask more questions from guides Beverley Pace and Allan Todd before a short walk around the surrounding streets for those who had time to absorb a little more of the history of the area.



Many thanks to all involved in the organisation of this enjoyable visit to Maitland – especially to Yvonne, Guide Allan Todd, and our Maitland members Beverley Pace, Dianne Stepa and Jan & Brian Halson.